

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

South Sudan continues to face a prolonged conflict due to civil wars and intra and inter-clan fighting, famine resulting from droughts, some of the worst health outcomes in the world, and an HIV response that lags more than a decade behind other neighboring countries.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborates closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH), South Sudan AIDS Commission, The Global Fund, and other key partners to strengthen the fragile health system by providing resources and technical assistance in adult and pediatric HIV treatment, HIV and tuberculosis (TB) collaborative activities, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), targeted prevention programming, laboratory strengthening, blood safety, and strategic information.

**Essential Health Services:** Through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports HIV prevention and treatment services in the highest prevalence areas of South Sudan, focusing on increasing HIV service access and quality through mentorship, supportive supervision at all treatment sites, and program monitoring. CDC supports two service delivery partners to enable the MOH to achieve the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 targets; 95% diagnosed among all people living with HIV (PLHIV), 95% on antiretroviral therapy (ART) among diagnosed, and 95% virally suppressed (VS) among treated.

**Health Systems Strengthening:** CDC provides extensive assistance to the MOH in strengthening the health system, including operationalizing the National Public Health Laboratory quality assurance and accreditation programs, developing guidelines and standard operating procedures for quality HIV service delivery, strengthening information management system, and supporting national priority HIV surveillance and surveys.

**KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Sustained Essential Health Services:** PEPFAR performance data for fiscal year (FY) 2020 indicates CDC directly supported 26,222 people on antiretroviral therapy (ART), accounting for 62% of people on ART nationally; CDC partners initiated 7,661 new people on ART, which is 72% of all PEPFAR-supported new on treatment (10,679); provides the MOH with critical support to conduct in-country viral load (VL) testing for those on ART. In FY 2020, 45% of people eligible for VL testing were tested (16,507); CDC results contributed to 79% of VL testing. CDC implementing partners provide HIV testing and treatment support across the three greater equatorial regions and Lake’s state.

HIV testing increased significantly from 281,954 in FY2019 to 402,395 in FY2020, with a slight increase in the number of HIV-positive individuals identified, and those diagnosed received ART. In FY 2020, 11,359 people were identified as living with HIV (PLHIV), compared to 11,119 in FY 2019 (a 2.2% increase). In FY2020, CDC partners accounted for 69% of the HIV-positive cases identified and 72% (7,661/10,679) of individuals new on treatment.

**TB/HIV:** TB continues to be the leading cause of mortality for people living with HIV. CDC continues to work with the national TB program and other stakeholders to improve collaboration between TB and HIV programs. In FY2020, 99% of the HIV-positive TB patients who were identified through PEPFAR were linked to care and treatment. Conversely, all HIV-positive cases identified at CDC-supported facilities were screened for TB and positive cases linked to TB treatment.

**HIV Surveys:** CDC has supported five rounds of antenatal clinic (ANC) sentinel surveys (2007, 2009, 2012, 2017 and 2020). CDC also supported four bio-behavioral surveys (BBS) of female sex workers in Juba (2016), Nimule (2017), Wau (2019) and Yambio (2019). The outcome data provides policy makers with the information to steer programmatic efforts and recalibrate as needed.

**PEPFAR Five-Year Strategy:** CDC continues to lead the implementation of an interagency, five-year PEPFAR strategy to focus programs on high-prevalence areas with partner geographic rationalization. CDC is focused on scaling-up case identification through index testing, same-day ART initiation, multi-month scripting, and rigorous partner management for program improvement. The strategy is to strengthen national ownership of the HIV response activities, including HIV testing services, treatment services, PMTCT, quality assurance, laboratory and strategic information systems strengthening.

**Key Country Leadership**

President:  
Salva Kiir Mayardit

Minister of Health:  
Hon. Elizabeth Achui

U.S. Ambassador:  
David Renz

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Sudhir Bunga

**Country Quick Facts**  
[worldbank.org/en/where-we-work](http://worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)

Per Capita GNI:  
\$460 (2018)

Population (millions):  
11.19 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:  
96/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:  
58 years (2019)

**UNAIDS 2021 Spectrum Estimates**

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 2.3% (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 6,900 (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 110,000 (2020)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 40,252 (2020)

**Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic**  
[who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en](http://who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)

Estimated TB Incidence: 227/100,000 population (2019)

TB patients with known HIV status who are HIV-positive: 12% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate: 81% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality: 42/100,000 population (2019)

**DGHT Country Staff: 8**  
Locally Employed Staff: 7  
Direct Hires: 1  
Fellows & Contactors: 0

**Our success is built on the backbone of science and strong partnerships.**

September 2021 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

